

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

**Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 5, as follows:**

This application is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/578,724, filed May 26, 2000, which is a continuation-in-part of ~~allowed~~ U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/657,585, filed June 7, 1996, now U.S. Patent No. 6,114,384, which is, in turn, a continuation-in-part of International Application Serial No. PCT/US94/05823, filed 20-May 20, 1994, ~~now in the and the corresponding~~ U.S. ~~n~~National ~~p~~Phase Serial No. 08/553,475, filed November 9, 1995, now U.S. Patent No. 5,693,344, which is, in turn, a continuation-in-part of U.S. ~~p~~Patent ~~a~~Application Serial No. 08/065,594, filed ~~21-May 21, 1993, which is now U.S. Patent No. 5,439,690, issued August 8, 1995.~~